

# The Alma Record

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## REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING

This country has many reasons for observing the annual Thanksgiving day. There is the abundant harvest, the freedom from pestilence, the cessation of the great strikes, the reviving business, the domestic prosperity. These are very material reasons, and all good ones.

But there is the other side. We ought to give thanks to the Giver of all Good for these blessings, and when we have gathered in our places of worship we should give thanks for our personal blessings. Then we should implore the Almighty Ruler of the Universe for an awakening among the people to the lax conditions that have grown up among us. We should ask for the opening of the eyes of the people to the conditions of the country as to crime, to the disregard for law that is springing up; to the cheapness of human life and to the cynicism that marks our attitude toward the murderer, especially if it be a woman.

There are crying evils to be corrected. Let us ask the help of the One who has guided the destinies of this country—and then let us labor to make our own prayers come true so that next year and every coming year we will have still more to be thankful for.

The Pilgrim fathers recognized that their lives were overshadowed by a providing Providence and that all their efforts would amount to nothing without the Blessing of that Divine Providence. But they also early learned to recognize that they must labor incessantly and help themselves to the utmost of their ability and opportunity in order to secure that Divine blessing. I have no doubt but that at times it was most discouraging work, and the obstacles to be overcome, if they were to gain even a bare livelihood and protect themselves from the hostile Indians, seemed almost unsurmountable. But they persevered in spite of all difficulties and when the time of their full harvest appeared and they had in store enough food and to spare for the bitter winter ahead so that none need go hungry, they did not forget to give thanks to the Giver of All Good who had thus blessed their efforts.

Our problems today are far different problems from those that confronted our Pilgrim Fathers, but they are none the less important and none the less serious. Therefore, we, on this Thanksgiving day, should find fresh inspiration from the example of perseverance and courage which was set us by our Pilgrim Fathers, and we should resolve as they did, to go ever forward seeking always for those things which shall best build up our beloved land and free it from the evils which threaten us. And we should also not forget to give thanks for all our blessings to the Giver of All Good who never has failed to reward the efforts of those who really try to do their best.

## WHAT AND HOW?

What do we most need in this city? How are we going to get it?

Answer those two questions in a satisfactory manner and you will have performed a wonderful service for your community.

There are many ways of improving a city and its adjacent countryside, but probably the best way will be found through the spirit of cooperation. There are many people who have ideas and suggestions for improvement, but it is also manifest that they cannot all be adopted with the limited facilities at our command, neither can they all be worked out at once.

The obvious thing to do is to get our various ideas together and into the limelight where they can be scrutinized for objectionable features and where they can be ranged side by side and weighed as to the desirability and feasibility. This done it should be an easy matter to decide upon the single suggested improvement which would be of greatest benefit to all of our people. With one question answered we would be face to face with the problem of how to convert that suggested improvement into an accomplished fact.

Again will come into play the various ideas of people who are in the habit of making a study of local conditions, and from the many suggestions offered we might undoubtedly be able to decide upon the one best suited to the requirements of the situation.

Dig down under the surface of towns that are always forging ahead and you will invariably find that they are operating along lines much similar to those suggested above.

It makes no difference from whose brain the original idea springs, results are the only things that are wanted, and best results can only be obtained through the spirit of co-operation when all pull together and pool their efforts for the common good.

The City of Alma needs many things if it is to grow bigger and better in the years to come. Let us therefore get together and organize ourselves so that we may all pull together for big results. This is our home city. We are proud of it. But we want it to improve and to grow, and we can all help to bring this condition about if we co-operate intelligently toward this end.

## TAKING INVENTORY

We copy the following from the Republic Round Table and pass it on to our readers because it cannot help but be of benefit to all of us who diligently put it into practice.

"Fix this point clearly in your mind once and for all—your biggest job is you. If you had a bad day and can say to yourself, 'It is my fault,' you have begun to learn and if you have plenty of vim, vigor and vitality you will get along.

"Tonight grab a chair in a dark corner—sit down, away from everybody else—take stock of yourself—ask and truthfully answer a bunch of questions like these.

"Am I lazy? Do I get enough sleep? Am I loyal. Have I a mean disposition? Do I work as well as I know how? What was wrong with my day's work? Am I as well posted on my lines as I should be? Just what is the matter with me?

"Don't varnish your faults or shortcomings. Be on the level with yourself—put the cards right on the table and see how you stack up.

"If you are full of bad habits—things that drag men down, shake them out of your system right now. Find your good points—dwell on them and develop them."

## Fresh Air Camps Put Tb. To Rout



Five weeks at the fresh air camp maintained by the Tuberculosis Society of her county brought Dorothy ten pounds increase in weight and changed her listless pallor to rosy, joyous vigor. With continued care and wholesome living, TB will no longer be a spectre in Dorothy's path. Christmas seals won this victory.

## BEFORE JEFFERSON HAD A SAN

(Names of places and persons, for obvious reasons, have been changed in this story, but the incident happened as narrated.)

Dr. Merritt, fresh from the U and new to Jeffersonville, answered his telephone promptly. It was Burroughs, the hotel-keeper, a vast, jovial fellow whom the doctor saw on the hotel porch daily, who was calling.

"Gosh, doc," said Burroughs, "I wish you'd come over. Fellow from twenty miles out in the Jack-pines just drove in here and left his boy on the steps, and asked me to send for the doctor, and before I could say 'Boo,' he hit the horse a crack and he was gone. And the boy—he ain't much more'n a kid—looks as if he was dying now."

Dr. Merritt's patient was still waiting for him on the hotel porch when the young doctor ran up the steps: a good-looking lad, if he had not been so wasted with fever. He was in the most advanced stage of tuberculosis, dying, as Burroughs had said; but since TB kills its victims by tortured inches, Dr. Merritt foresaw that it might be weeks before death came.

"Edgar Robinson," the young man whispered in reply to the doctor's inquiry as to his name.

"How long have you been sick, Robinson?" inquired the doctor, cheerfully as he could.

"Why, I've been in the house since January; but Dad can't pay doctor's bills, and 'twasn't much but a bad cold, I thought, anyhow. So I just stayed in and kept warm; haven't had much appetite, you know, but I haven't been really sick. There's eight of us in the family, though, and Dad couldn't keep a loafer, any longer, I didn't think, and so I told him, if he'd bring me into town, maybe somebody—Edgar's eyes glistened hopefully.

Burroughs beckoned the doctor to the end of the porch: "Gosh, I wish I could keep him," he rumbled regretfully. "But I got a duty to the public."

"If there was a hospital—" began the doctor.

"Ain't any within thirty miles," answered Burroughs. "And that's always full. If there was one of these TB sanatoriums in Jefferson county now—"

"If there was a sanatorium," said the young doctor fiercely, "this never would have happened. That boy could have been saved, six months ago. As it is, I suppose it's the poor farm."

In the end it was not even the poor farm, for the poor commissioner held that he couldn't take care of contagious diseases. So young Merritt and the kind-hearted hotel-keeper built a little shack out in the woods back of the hotel, and between them cared for the forlorn young patient, until, three weeks later, he died.

"And I'll stay here," vowed Merritt, the night Robinson went, "till I see Jefferson county with a san, or they run me out."

Jefferson—or whatever its real name is—has a "san" now; already it has done good work, and a field of unbounded usefulness is before it.

But in all Michigan there are for its 38,000 consumptives only 2,000 beds. A proportion of the Christmas seal money will be used by the Michigan Tuberculosis Association in the campaign for more of the life-giving sanatoria that save incipient cases of tuberculosis from drifting into the plight of Edgar Robinson.

Has Had Long Vacation. One of the national standard weights of the United States has not been used for actual weighing since it was received from the international bureau in 1880.

## GOVERNOR ENDORSES SALE OF TB. CHRISTMAS SEALS



Shortening days, chilly nights, and falling leaves warn us of the approach of winter, and with winter comes the glad Christmas season, heralded by the Michigan Tuberculosis Association's annual sale of Christmas seals.

The proceeds of this sale will be used in the fight against the tuberculosis scourge and will gladden many a heart with the thought that someone does care.

The salesmen receive no remuneration. Their work is a labor of love. "Buy Christmas seals and save human lives."

"Christmas seal your Christmas mail."  
(Signed) ALEX J. GROESBECK,  
The Capitol,  
Lansing, Michigan.

## With Our State Contemporaries

### THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF THE PRIMARY

When Woodbridge N. Ferris, senator-elect from Michigan, was asked whether he thinks our primary law is working well he replied: "No, I would not return to the old convention system, but the primary law is destructive not only of party organization, but of character as well. I think we Democrats have the right idea in our pre-primary convention.

The pre-primary convention looks on the surface of things so much like a makeshift employed to escape from a dab situation, and it has been tried out in such a cursory way that Mr. Ferris shows sense in limiting his endorsement to a statement that he "thinks" it is the right idea, this even in the face of the circumstance that recently it served his turn very handsomely. At the same time he may be right in his judgment, for the adoption of the primary system has created a demoralized political situation that makes almost any port of shelter attractive, and reversion of the old convention system in a thorough-going way would, at the best, be an exceedingly difficult thing to accomplish even if the country were to decide definitely to abandon the primary system as it stands.

One of the principal objections to modification of the primary system through injection of the pre-primary convention is the likelihood that it would work only to the advantage of the minority party in any instance, as it has in Michigan, and would not materially assist restoration of party solidarity and party consciousness in the ranks of the dominant organization. What would be sauce for the goose might not be sauce for the gander.

In his main contention Mr. Ferris is unquestionably sound. The primary election system is destructive both of party organization and of individual character. The senator-elect might have gone further and declared with equal truth that it has caused a fearful deterioration in the general caliber of those who go into public service and has provided the professional demagogue and agitator with his heyday of prosperity. Platforms and policies no longer are the chief things in the average political campaign. Instead we have personalities, prejudices and appeals to passion. Election fights now are not made between adherents of opposing principles championed by standard-bearers selected because of their beliefs as much as they are made between adherents of individuals, who for reasons good or bad, happen for the moment to be the popular idols of opposing groups. Today the thing is not the party or the policy; the thing is the candidate. We are swerving to government by men and away from government according to principle.

This is by no means because the American people lack beliefs and convictions and have become mere adulating hero worshippers. The change has come because the American people have deprived themselves of the means of crystallizing party consciousness, conviction and solidarity provided by the convention system; and have not furnished themselves with a substitute. The cry of calculating sensationalists and ambitious spoilsmen, that there is no longer much difference between the two great parties in this country and that the creation of a third party has become necessary is buncombe and the people who are leading the shouting know it is better than anybody else knows it. The old opposing principles and beliefs and fundamental outlooks that once divided the Republicans and Democrats sharply still live. The rallying points have been destroyed, that is all; and the muddle which now exists, and plagues and injures the United States will continue whether new parties are formed or whether new parties are not formed, until the nation realizes that it must find a way of escape from that pit, known as the primary election system, which it first dug and then fell into.—Detroit Free Press.

Approximately 2,000,000 births occur in the United States annually.

A California trout farm was regularly robbed by cranes and herons which visited the ponds at night and carried off the fish. The pond is now protected by an acetylene flash which operates every 15 minutes.

## Phool Philosophy Old Cy Collegy

Do your Christmas shopping before Christmas.

Forget to tell your troubles to other people and you will soon forget that you have any.

You may have more brains than your neighbor, but telling him so isn't putting them to the best use.

Don't be too free with your advice. If it is of any value it is too good to give away.

It is always safe to tell a woman how old she looks, provided you make her look young.

Some young men are so energetic they never go to bed until just before dawn. Usually dad pays the bills.

The Lord has blessed you with the amount of brains your destiny requires, but you can't expect him to keep brushing the cobwebs out.

All men are foolish in one way or another, and most of us in trying to keep the fact a secret.

Some men are energetic because they are too busy to be lazy.

The great trouble with a straw vote is that it is only a straw vote after it has been taken.

And still, there is one consoling thought about the short session of congress. It will be short.

Why envy the man who lives in clover? You wouldn't want to be rubbing elbows with a million bees all your life.

Every time the people kick about the high cost of living the darned thing takes another jump. Let's kick the other way!

Some countries are talking loudly of the necessity of maintaining peace with other nations in order to cover up the absence in the home.

Nobody seems to be worrying about the frigid blasts of the coming winter. They are not here yet.

We never knew of a really good man who wasn't willing to admit his shortcomings. And, to be equally fair we have never known a genuinely bad man who wasn't willing to admit that he was a paragon of goodness.

Now we are told that we can not make peace with Turkey because we never declared war on her. That, however, may soon be remedied. Christmas is near at hand.

Why speak of your neighbor's faults? They may be only the reflection of your own obstinacy in refusing to recognize his virtues.

Get a handy package of scratch pads at the Record office. You will find them handy for the grocery list.—advertisement

## Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

**President and Congress**  
President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, Salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$150,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$250,000 in all. (Subject to changes.)  
Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000.  
President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa.  
Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass., salary \$12,000.  
The 67th Congress and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$3,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,817 population.  
Party Division in 67th Congress: House 291 Rep., 133 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 69 Rep., 27 Dem.  
U. S. Senators—Chas E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry.  
Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Ford, Rep.

**The Cabinet**  
Arranged in order of presidential succession:  
Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-General, Ralph W. Holt, N. Y.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denby, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,500.

**The Supreme Court**  
Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$15,000.  
Associate Justices, salary, \$14,500 each: Jos McKenna, Calif. (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Rep.); Wm. R. Day, Ohio (Rep.); Willis VanDewenter, Wyo. (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn. (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio (Dem.)

**Michigan Government**  
Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary, \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reed, salary, \$300.00; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$250.00; State Treas., Frank E. Gorham, salary, \$250.00; Auditor Gen., Oranuel B. Fuller, salary, \$250.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary \$200.00; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$400.00; State Highway Com., Frank C. Rogers, salary \$750.00; Senator of District, Aaron Amon, salary \$800.00; Representative of District, David G. Loomis, salary, \$800.00; Supreme Court Justice, salary \$7000.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Reed, Howard W. Grant, John E. Bird, Wm. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sharp.

**County Officers**  
Circuit Judge, Edward J. Molint, salary \$3500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kress, salary, \$2400.00; Sheriff, A. T. Willett, salary, fee; Clerk, Bernice Case, salary, \$1500; Treas., Sidney Evey, salary, \$1500; Pros. Atty., Romaine Clark, salary, \$2200; Register of Deeds, Merle Heister, salary, \$1600; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCall, Wm. A. Bahke, fees; Drain Com., Erva Laycock, salary \$1500; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

**City Government**  
Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary, \$2500.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Floyd Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Cresser, salary, \$250.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$5000.00; City Clerk, Clarence F. Black, salary \$1500.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$1500.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Bahke, salary, \$1200.00; Health Officer, Dr. C. F. DuBois, salary \$1200.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$1750.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jessie E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Sood, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Heiman, salary, \$5.00 per day on actual time.



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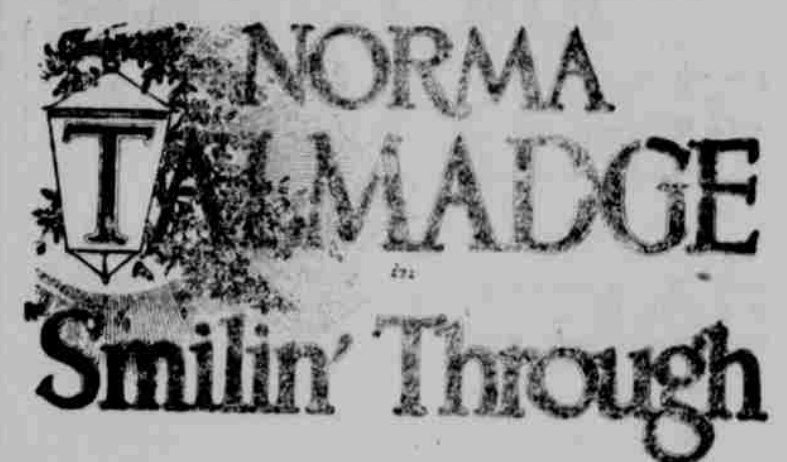
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